

A STUDY OF INFORMATION NEEDS AND INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOUR OF FACULTY IN GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGES OF KARNATAKA

K. SHAIKSHA VALI¹ & S. MOHAMED ESMAIL²

¹Librarian, Anjuman Institute of Technology and Management, Bhatkal, Karnataka, India

²Associate Professor, Annamalai University, Chidambaram, Tamil Nadu, India

ABSTRACT

Information is regarded as the basic need of every human being in addition to air, water, food and shelter. It is an important ingredient for the socio economic and healthy development of a nation. The study has identified the importance of information particularly in the field of medical sciences. It is observed that the study on information needs of faculty in Government Medical colleges of Karnataka emphasizes that the existing medical college library infrastructure in terms of collection, services and other facilities are more to be strengthened.

KEYWORDS: Library Infrastructure, Facilities

INTRODUCTION

Information is regarded as the basic need of every human being in addition to air, water, food and shelter. In every walk of life it has become an important ingredient. Information is a raw material for a right decision making from personal to governmental level. It is an important ingredient for the socio economic and healthy development of a nation.

Information plays a vital role in organizational life and in day to day activities. Information Technology, information age and information revolution are familiar terms in day to day life. With the growth of information, every one needs it in an increasing variety and capacity with diversity of levels frequency, volume and use. Therefore, information needs of particular group of users and information flow from specific situation/institution is difficult to determine. The use of information is so complex that there cannot be a single system to take up the task of effective retrieval without assessing their needs.

INFORMATION NEEDS

It is difficult to prove the need of a particular community of professionals precisely. The topic is viewed in a number of ways that no single definition exists. Need has been used by researchers in many ways. The words of wants and desire have been used interchangeably though they are not identical. Need is further complicated by the necessity to disguise the expressed and unexpressed needs. Human motives are based on needs. Some are primary needs such as physiological requirements. Other needs may be regarded as secondary such as self esteem, status, affiliation with others. These needs vary in intensity and over a period of time among different individuals. Motivation is a general term applicable to the entire class of needs, desires and similar forces.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

A faculty doctor needs information for three purposes namely for teaching, for research and for clinical treatment. A doctor like many other professionals needs latest information. Knowledge in medicine is growing at an overwhelming rate with the invention of new drugs, new diagnostic techniques and treatment being introduced. Therefore Doctors need latest developments of information that are taking place in their fields.

The promise of good health to people of Karnataka seems to be far from reality. Though greater attempts are being made in preventing diseases and extending life of people Karnataka is faced with continued health threats characterized by spread of infectious diseases like Malaria, Dengue, Cholera, Typhoid, Diarrhea, Malnutrition, high levels of infant and maternal mortality, low level of life expectancy and deteriorating health care facilities.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To trace the growth and development of Medical colleges and their Libraries in Karnataka
- To study the information needs of faculty Doctors of Government Medical Colleges of Karnataka.
- To compare the information seeking behaviour of respondents by age, sex and designation.
- To examine the motivating factors for information seeking behaviour among the respondents.
- To examine the faculty opinions about the comprehensiveness of respective institution's library collection
- To identify the various channels of information, the faculty Doctors make use in information seeking.
- To analyze the extent of use and dependence on various sources of information for teaching and research.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The review of related literature is an essential component for the research. It is regarded as the back-bone of research activity and it gives necessary input to the investigator to frame the research study on the selected topic. So far as the field of "information needs and information seeking behaviour" of a particular group is concerned, a large number of studies have been conducted and it is expanding rapidly. A number of research reports, articles, books and conference proceedings on the subject have been published. Undoubtedly conceptual development and research output in information seeking behaviour is increasing.

Faculty doctors working in Medical colleges play a vital role in primary care. Clinical Governance and advances in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) dominate the agenda for change. The aim of this literature review is to indicate publications that have made a significant contribution of the information wants, needs, behaviour and preferences of Faculty Doctors in the Government Medical Colleges of Karnataka and thereby to identify areas in which there is scope for further research.

The Annual Review of Information Science and Technology (ARIST) reviews the literature on "Information needs and uses". Fourteen volumes during the year 1966 to 2010 have provided elaborate review on the subject. The concepts on information needs and uses interspersed in these volumes of ARIST are seminal and fundamental in the area of Information Seeking Behavior (ISB). All the observations made in further studies seem to be more or less restatements of what were observed in the volumes of ARIST. Since 1966 Three International Conferences on research in information needs, information seeking and use in different contexts, held at Tampere, (Finland) Sheffield, (UK) and Gothenburg,

(Sweden) presented a collection of papers representing huge variety of research done in the area of information concepts with a wide and different geographical coverage of researchers.

METHODOLOGY

This study has been limited to the faculty doctors working in Government Medical Colleges of Karnataka. There are 19 Govt. Medical colleges in Karnataka. The investigator has limited this study to Government Medical colleges only taking in to consideration of their year of establishment. Library facilities and infrastructures number of working faculty doctors. Questionnaire was framed to the Librarians of Government Medical Colleges to obtain information regarding library facilities, staff particulars. Based on the data obtained from the Librarians questionnaire a structured questionnaire has been designed to obtain data from the doctors of Government medical colleges. The questionnaire covers the information Elicits information regarding institution, designation, age, sex, visiting the library, services, information required, , Delegation, Sharing of information, attending conferences, seminars and motives for seeking information

DATA ANALYSIS

This section presents the data collected from faculty doctors with regard their information needs and information seeking behavior has been analyzed Data was distributed by means of structured questionnaire among 370 faculty doctors working 19 government colleges.

Table 1: Frequency Distribution of Respondents by Formal Documentary Sources Required/Sought 5.17

S.No.	Type of Information	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Frequently	Highly	Weighted Average	Standard Deviation	Rank
01	Evidence based, regularly updated text books	0(0)	6(2.2)	70(27)	70(26.2)	121(45.3)	3.14	50.5	01
02	Systematic Journal review	6(2.2)	14(5.24)	73(27.3)	131(49)	43(16.1)	2.71	50.7	5
03	Portable summary of systematic review	9(3.3)	41(15.3)	139(52)	71(2.6)	7(2.6)	2.09	54.5	8
04	Standard Journal review	7(2.6)	7(2.6)	36(13.5)	121(45.3)	96(36)	3.09	52.4	2
05	ACP Journal club Evidence based medicine forerunners of systematic abstract journals	12(4.49)	9(3.37)	109(41)	69(26)	68(25.4)	2.64	42.5	6
06	Journal articles	14(5)	7(2.6)	41(15.3)	107(40)	98(37)	3	46.7	3
07	Collection of systematic reviews	12(4.5)	56(21)	154(15.7)	42(15.7)	3(1)	1.8	60	10
08	Free Medical newspaper	16(6)	116(43.4)	90(34)	39(14.5)	6(2.2)	1.63	47.7	11
09	Clinical guidelines	0(0)	34(12.7)	112(41.9)	95(35.5)	26(9.73)	2.42	47.8	7
10	Consensus statements	29(11)	152(56.9)	59(22.1)	22(8.2)	5(1.9)	1.33	58.4	12
11	Drug Advertising	129(48)	91(34)	32(12)	14(5.2)	1(0.4)	0.75	54.5	13
12	Therapeutic references	5(1.9)	82(30.7)	107(40)	59(22)	14(5)	1.98	43.6	9
13	Internet sources	3(1.1)	12(4.4)	61(23)	168(62.9)	23(8.6)	2.73	67.7	4

Table shows that faculty doctors are highly dependent on Evidence based regularly up dated text books (WA 3.14). EBM is the process by which practitioners turn clinical problems into questions and then systematically integrate personal clinical expertise with the best available external evidence as the basis for clinical evidence. Journal reviews (WA 3.09) were ranked as 2nd required documentary sources in this study and journal article (WA 3) were the 3rd required documentary sources. Internet resources were to be found the 4th (WA 2.73) required information sources in this investigation. Clinical guide lines were the 7th required information sources (WA 2.42) in this study. The least required documentary sources found in this study were drug advertisement literature (WA 0.75). These were ranked as 13th in the table 1

Table 2: Frequency Distribution of Respondents by Extent of Making Use of Library Services 5.22

S. No	Information Sources	Extent of Use			Weighted Average	Standard Deviation	Rank
		Marginally	Substantially	Completely			
01	Borrow of books	39 (14.6)	71 (26.6)	157 (58.8)	1.44	61	1
02	Reference service	58 (21.7)	132 (49.4)	77 (28.8)	1.03	38.4	4
03	Bibliographic service	113 (42.3)	134 (50.2)	20 (7.5)	0.65	60.6	7
04	Current awareness service	55 (20.6)	153 (57.3)	59 (22)	1.014	55.4	5
05	Selective dissemination of information service	165 (61.8)	93 (34.8)	9 (3.4)	0.4	78	9
06	Inter library loan	214 (80.1)	49 (18.4)	4 (1.5)	0.2	110.5	11
07	Photocopy services	112 (42)	121 (45.3)	34 (12.7)	0.70	47.8	6
08	Journal/periodical /circulation	14 (5.2)	153 (57.3)	100 (37.5)	1.32	70	2
09	Abstracting & indexing services	155 (58)	80 (30)	32 (12)	0.53	62	8
10	CD-ROM printouts	259 (97)	7 (2.6)	1 (0.4)	0.03	147	10
11	Internet services	10 (3.7)	33 (12.4)	157 (58.8)	1.29	79	3

As per the mean score shown in the table 2 borrow of books from the institutional library(WA1.44) was ranked as 1.it shows that the respondents make extensive use of the library for borrowing books in addition to their use of books from their respective libraries. Journal/Periodical circulation service (WA 1.32) was the 2nd library service the respondents make us of. The respondents make use of internet services provided by the library (WA 1.29) and it is found to be 3rd of such serve. Reference service (WA 1.03) was ranked as 4th service. Ed CAS (WA 1.014) was ranked as 5th service the respondents make us of from the library. It is to be found from the table 2 that there is not much variation in weighted average values of between the 6th to 11th ranked services.

Table 3: Frequency of Distribution of Respondents by Method of Collecting Information for Teaching 5.40

S. No	Information Collecting Methods	Teaching (From Most to Least Important)							Weighted Average	Standard Deviation	Rank
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
01	Personal library	90(33.7)	78(29)	71(26.5)	21(8)	2(0.7)	1(0.4)	4(1.5)	4.80	40	3
02	Institutional library	139(52)	46(17)	61(23)	10(4)	7(2.6)	3(1)	1(0.4)	5.01	50	1
03	Departmental library	109(41)	7(2.6)	67(25)	54(20)	28(10.5)	1(0.4)	1(0.4)	4.85	40.6	2
04	Other libraries	14(5.2)	22(8.2)	13(5)	65(24.3)	16(6)	19(7)	118(44)	1.84	39.6	6
05	Conference/seminars	13(4.9)	78(29)	59(22)	95(36)	14(5)	7(2.6)	1(0.4)	3.83	38	5
06	Discussion with colleagues	5(1.9)	67(25)	115(43)	64(24)	11(4)	4(1.5)	1(0.4)	3.9	44	4
07	Drug advertisement literature	17(6.4)	3(1)	11(4)	36(13.5)	11(4)	11(4)	178(66.7)	1.13	62.5	8
08	Interactive meetings conducted by drug companies	2(0.7)	7(2.6)	13(5)	25(9.4)	44(16.5)	48(18)	128(48)	1.16	43	7

The faculty doctors were asked to indicate the method of collecting information. The data collected was shown in the table 3 By analyzing the table values it is found that institutional library with weighted average 5.01 ranked as 1st followed by departmental library having weighted average with 2nd rank. Personal library was ranked as 3rd with weighted average 4.8 Discussions with colleagues were ranked as 4th with weighted average 3.9 Conference/seminars was ranked as 5th one with weighted average 3.83 Method of collecting information from other libraries was ranked as 6 with weighted average 1.84.

Interactive meetings conducted by pharmaceutical Companies was ranked as 7 with weighted average 1.16 and lastly information collected from Drug advertisement literature was ranked 8 with weighted average 1.13 Each method of collecting information from most value to least value was subjected to standard deviation text. It was observed that conference/seminars has got the lowest STD value of 38 where as Drug advertisement literature has got the highest STD value of 62.5

Table 4: Frequency of Distribution of Respondents by Dependence

on the Sources of Information for Research 5.47

S. No.	Sources	Dependence					Weighted Average	Standard Deviation	Rank
		Never	Rare	Occasional	Frequent	High			
01	Books	3 (1)	6 (2.2)	54 (20.2)	97 (36.3)	107 (40)	3.11	49	2
02	journals	2 (0.7)	4 (1.5)	25 (9.4)	75 (28)	161 (60.3)	3.45	67	1
03	Medical Newspaper	93 (34.8)	121 (49.8)	26 (9.7)	14 (5.2)	13 (4.9)	1	50	12
04	Field survey reports	30 (11.2)	133 (49.8)	62 (23.2)	31 (11.6)	11 (4.1)	1.4	48	11
05	Dissertations	10 (3.7)	15 (5.6)	49 (18.4)	146 (54.7)	47 (17.6)	2.76	54.7	4
06	Indexing & abstracting services	9 (3.3)	55 (20.6)	134 (50.2)	52 (19.5)	17 (6.4)	2.1	49.4	6
07	Audio visual & CD ROMs	36 (13.5)	133 (49.8)	48 (18)	41 (15.4)	9 (3.4)	1.45	46.8	10
08	Book reviews	11 (4)	72 (27)	118 (44.2)	38 (14.2)	28 (10.5)	2	42.4	9
09	Patents and standards	12 (4.4)	53 (19.9)	120 (45)	73 (27.3)	9 (3.4)	2.05	46	7
10	Therapeutic references	28 (10.5)	40 (15)	94 (35.2)	78 (29.2)	27 (10.1)	2.03	30.7	8
11	Drug advertisements	193 (72.3)	34 (12.7)	15 (5.6)	24 (9)	1 (0.4)	0.52	79	13
12	Internet	26 (9.7)	47 (17.6)	40 (15)	92 (34.5)	62 (23.2)	2.46	25	5
13	Informal/Inter personal	12 (4.5)	22 (8.2)	41 (15.4)	115 (43)	77 (28.8)	2.83	42.4	3

As observed from the table 4 Journals were the most dependable source of information for research. It ranked as 1st (WA 3.45). The next source for the respondents depends on for information for research in this study was books which were rated as 2nd in rank (WA 3.11). Dissertations (WA 2.76) were ranked as 4th in this table. The respondents in the study depend next on internet (WA 2.46) for information. This was ranked as 5th in the order. Respondents depend on indexing and abstracting services (WA 2.1) which were ranked as 6th in the table. Drug advertisements were last in the ranking order of 13 (WA 0.52).

SUGGESTIONS

The findings following suggestions are further research based on the presented study

- Information needs and information Seeking Behaviour of Post Graduate Medical
- Students in Government Medical Colleges.
- Information needs and information Seeking Behaviour of Physiotherapists in Medical Colleges.
- Information needs and Information Seeking Behaviour of Dentists in Dental Colleges.
- Design and Development of Medical Information system for studies on Bio-Medical Sciences.
- User's attitude towards the application of ICT in Medical Colleges.
- Comparative study on the information needs and Information Seeking Behaviour between users of Corporate and Government Medical Colleges.
- A survey on the Medical, Para medical and Dental college libraries in Karnataka.

CONCLUSIONS

The study on Information needs and Information Seeking Behaviour of faculty doctors of Government Medical Colleges in Karnataka emphasizes that the existing medical college library infrastructure in terms of collection, services and other facilities are more to be strengthened. Government Medical colleges are suffering from financial constraints. The limited man power resources hinder the provision of effective information services.

The investigator stresses that present libraries should accept the challenges being forced by Information & Communication Technologies which would supplement and complement the Information Seeking Behaviour of users. The librarians should completely transform themselves with the changing scenario. ISB will be fruitful only with balanced

collection of information resources; provision of ICT based services in addition to the services offered by the information professionals. The duties of faculty doctors in Government Medical Colleges in Karnataka in three aspects of teaching, promoting as well as involving in research and finally safe guarding the lives of the poor people by the clinical treatment is really applaud able. In fulfillment of the desired functions, it is the responsibility of the Librarians of the Medical colleges to support the faculty doctor's duties with the required information sources for a prospering healthy nation.

REFERENCES

1. Maslow. A. H (1970) Motivation and Personality 2nd Ed. New York: Harper & Row.
2. Grover.R (1993) a proposed model for diagnosing information needs: School Library Media Quarterly.
3. Tague .J (1976) the distribution of Community Information: role of computer based networks. Aslib Proceedings.
4. Kutlthau. C. Seeking meaning a process approach to library and information services. Norwood. NJ Ablex 1993.
5. Greer.R.C & Hale M.L (1982). The community Analysis process in. Public Librarianship: A Reader colarado Littleton.
6. Soper.M.E the Librarian's Theasurus: A concise guide to Library and Information Terms, Chicago American Library Association.
7. Amritapal, Kaur & Navneet, Kaur (2007) Medical College Libraries of Pubjob: A study. Library Herald.
8. Covell D.G & Uman, G.C (1995) Information needs in office practice: are they being met? Annals of Internal Medicine.10 (3)96.
9. Smith, Richard. (1996). What Clinical information do doctors need? British Medical Journal 31(3)1062-68.
10. Michelynn. N. (2003). Use of information sources by health care providers. Medical References quarterly, 19(2).
11. Gorman .P.N. (1995).Information needs of Physicians. Journal of American Society for information sciences. 46:729-36.
12. Jonathan, A and Buba Abba. (2003). Information needs and information seeking behavior of Medical Doctors in Maiduguri Nigeria Journal of Educational Media & Library Sciences.40 (4):417-427.